

Compstall Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1908.

J. ANDREW & CO., "REPORTER" OFFICE, HYDE.

To the Chairman and Members of the Compstall Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1908:—

By an order of the County Council of Chester, dated the 16th May, 1901, duly confirmed by the L.G. Board, the Parish of Compstall, which was formerly part of Stockport Rural District Council, was constituted an Urban District, called the Compstall Urban District, as from 31st March, 1902. The population of Compstall at the Census in 1901 was 875, and at the Census of 1891 the population of same area was 1,012.

The decrease in the population during the decennium 1891-1901 was therefore 137, that is, 13·5 per cent.

BOUNDARIES.

The District lies on the south and south-easterly portion of the Werneth Hills, in the north-western portion of the County of Chester, and separated from the Ludworth Division of the Glossop Rural District, in the County of Derby, by the River Etherow.

It is bounded on the North by the Borough of Hyde; on the West and South-West by Romiley and Bredbury Urban District; and on the East and South-East by the Glossop Rural District.

The District is principally rural in character, the urban portion being small in area, and lying at the lower border of the District on the South and South-Easterly sides. The subsoil is composed of sand and clay, on a rocky basis.

INDUSTRIES.

Spinning and Weaving are the chief industries, and most of the inhabitants are employed at the mills. The other inhabitants are chiefly farmers.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

The houses are well built, and are of sufficient accommodation.

Open spaces are numerous.

The yards are kept clean and sanitary.

No case of overcrowding has been reported.

No new houses have been erected.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The sewage consists of slop-water only, and is carried by the sewers into a reservoir which stores water for a turbine at the mills. Eventually it is discharged into the river. The drains are trapped and ventilated. Disconnection is general. I again advise the Council to adopt a new Sewerage Scheme for the urban part of the District, as the present method is very primitive, and is, no doubt, part, if not the whole, cause of the strong effluvia arising from the reservoir in summer, of which very many complaints have been made.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

Excreta and other refuse are removed regularly by the owners of property, the ashpits being well disinfected after being emptied. Most of the ashpits are covered in and ventilated.

I again advise the Council to notify owners of property whose ashpits are not covered in and ventilated to have them put in a sanitary condition.

A large number of inhabitants now burn their household refuse.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water was tested at the beginning of the year, and was reported very good water, both for drinking and domestic purposes.

The supply is very ample even in the dry season.

It is obtained from springs and stored in two reservoirs.

The reservoirs are cleaned and limed every spring, and the mains flushed regularly.

The rural parts are supplied from wells and springs. These have been inspected and found free from sources of contamination. I beg to draw your attention to the fowls that are kept in close proximity to one of the reservoirs. I drew your attention to this matter two years ago, but nothing has been done to abate the nuisance. I noticed on my last inspection that dirty water settled close to the boundary wall separating the hen-runs from the reservoir, and I strongly advise the Council to notify the owners to have the fowls removed, as they are a source of contamination.

INSPECTION OF MILLS.

These have been inspected regularly by the Inspector and myself, and found clean and sanitary. They have been painted and whitewashed throughout.

One or two small defects were found, and were promptly remedied by the owners.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There is only one in the District. This is kept clean and sanitary. The refuse is removed regularly. There are no Lodging-houses or Bakehouses, nor are there any offensive trades carried on in the District.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools have been re-modelled, and will be opened early in 1909.

They are now in a sanitary condition, and are sufficient for the needs of the district. The sanitary arrangements are very good.

NUISANCES.

The Inspector reports that two notices were served and nuisances abated. Two nuisances abated without notice being sent. Seven houses have been disinfected. New drains with trapped gullies have been put down at the house where the Typhoid cases occurred.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

These have been inspected and found clean and sanitary.

BYE-LAWS.

The Bye-Laws in force are the Bye-Laws of the Stockport Rural District Council, which were adopted when the District was made an Urban District.

No new Bye-Laws have been adopted.

STATISTICS.

The area of the district (exclusive of area covered by water), 897 acres.

Population at Census, 1901, was 875.

„ „ 1891, was 1,012.

Decrease during decennium, 1891-1901, was 137,
or 13·5 per cent.

This was due to closure of Printworks, and consequent removal of people to other districts. I estimate the population for year 1908 to be 885. Number of houses inhabited in July was 217. Average number of persons per house = 4.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Male.		Female.		Total.
Births	9	9	18
Deaths	5	4	9

The Birth Rate for the year is 20 per 1,000, and is the same as last year.

The Death Rate for the year is 10 per 1,000, and is slightly higher than last year's, which was 9 per 1,000.

There were no deaths of infants under 1 year.

The following Table gives the ages at which the deaths occurred:—

Under 1 year	nil
1 and under 5 years	2
5 and under 15 years	2
15 and under 25 years	1
25 and under 65 years	3
65 and upwards	1

THE DEATHS FROM CLASSIFIED DISEASES.

Measles	1
Scarlet Fever	1
Enteric Fever	1
Puerperal Fever	1
Cancer	1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis).....	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases.....	2
Bronchitis	1

Infectious Diseases.

SCARLATINA.

Seven cases of Scarlet Fever occurred during the year. One case was fatal. The patient contracted the fever in a malignant form, and died within a week. The body was interred after being well disinfected, and the house was disinfected and thoroughly cleaned. The other cases were very mild.

One case occurred in March, and was sent to Hyde Hospital.

Two cases occurred in October, and were isolated at home.

Two cases occurred in November, and were isolated at home.

Two cases occurred in December, one isolated at home and one at Hospital.

Some of the cases were exceedingly mild, and very difficult to detect. Isolation was, however, strictly carried out in suspicious cases, and spread of infection was undoubtedly lessened by this precaution. The parents of infected children were, with one exception, very careful in isolating properly.

ENTERIC.

Two cases occurred at the same house in June and July. One case was removed to the Isolation Hospital, and one case isolated at home ended in death. No cause could be found. The drinking water was examined and found free. Drains were taken up and re-laid, although there were no defects found. No history of contagion by the deceased from partaking of anything likely to produce Typhoid. The excreta was

disinfected and buried, and the bed linen was disinfected and washed or burnt. The house was fumigated and thoroughly cleaned.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

One case occurred in November. Patient died after three weeks' illness. Death due to Septicæmia, following retained Placenta. There were no other cases of infection notified.

PREVENTION OF INFECTION.

All the rooms were disinfected. Bed linen and clothes were either destroyed or disinfected and well washed. The Inspector kept a strict supervision, and isolation was well carried out, except in the case mentioned, and which was dealt with by your Council. Disinfectants are supplied free.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The Council retain one bed at the Hyde Hospital.

RECOMMENDATIONS.


1. The Compulsory Notification of Measles and Phthisis.
2. A Disinfector for bedding and clothing.

I beg to remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHAS. H. HIBBERT,

Medical Officer of Health.



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